

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0044] in the specification with the following amended paragraph.

[0044] Subsequently, the throughput of analyzer 10 is optimized for both morning and afternoon assay demand patterns by duplicating within the inventory of reagents in reagent server 26 those additional reagents required for conducting the subgroup of high volume "routine morning" Type A assays at the Morning Assay Demand Pattern as illustrated in FIG. 9A. These certain assays (shared across servers) are selected from within the first subgroup of assays. This duplication of reagents is indicated in Fig. 9A by vertical dashed line 71 and the term "Server 26" in italics. Optionally, a selected portion of the reagents required for conducting the first subgroup of high volume "routine morning" Type A assays at the Morning Assay Demand Pattern may optionally also be duplicated within the inventory of reagents in reagent server 27 as indicated by vertical dashed line 73 and the term "Server 27" in italics. This novel reagent sharing protocol significantly enhances analyzer throughput since a sufficient quantity of the reagents required for conducting high volume "routine morning" Type A assays at the Morning Assay Demand Pattern is available on analyzer 10 so that no backlog of Type A assays exists during AM time period. It should be noted that server 26 is initially loaded or inventoried with a sufficient quantity of the reagents required for conducting Type C assays at the Afternoon Assay Demand Pattern and since the Morning Assay Demand Pattern for Type C assays is lower for such assays, server 26 has sufficient capacity to inventory both the additional reagents required for conducting the first subgroup of high volume "routine morning" Type A assays at the Morning Assay Demand Pattern as well as the reagents required for conducting Type C assays at the Afternoon Assay Demand Pattern. Consequently, analyzer 10 may be automatically operated by CPU 15 such that newly incoming Type A assays within the

sub-group of high volume "routine morning" Type A assays are conducted using reagents from whichever reagent server 26, 27 or 28 has the smaller backlog of previously assigned assays from within said of high volume "routine morning" Type A assays.